



KANSAS STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

CENTER FOR HISTORICAL RESEARCH

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KANSAS MUSEUM OF HISTORY

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Certification of State Register Listing

The Register of Historic Kansas Places includes all Kansas properties nominated to the National Register as well as lower threshold properties which are listed on the state register only.

Property Name: ~~Shute-Welter~~ House

Address: NE1/4, SW1/4, S13, T8S, R8, Pottawatomie County, Kansas

Legal: NE1/4, SW1/4, S13, T8S, R8

County: Pottawatomie County

Owner: Ronald C. and Ruby A. Zeller

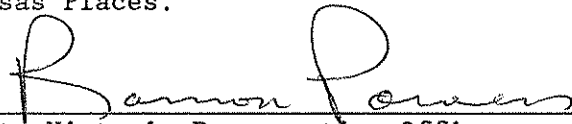
Address: Box 234, Maple Hill, Kansas 66507

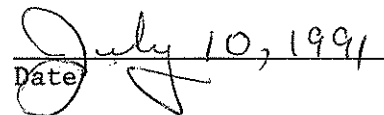
National Register eligible _____

State Register eligible X

This property was approved by the Kansas Historic Sites Board of Review for the Register of Historic Kansas Places on June 22, 1991.

I hereby certify that this property is listed on the Register of Historic Kansas Places.


State Historic Preservation Officer


Date

The Shute-Welter House (c. 1865-1870) is being nominated to the Register of Historic Kansas Places for its historical association with the Pleasant Run community in Pottawatomie County. The Shute-Welter House is located on the NE 1/4, SW 1/4, S. 13- T. 8S- R. 8 in Pottawatomie Township, Pottawatomie County, Kansas in the Pleasant Run community.

Andreas writes in his 1883 History of Kansas that: "Pottawatomie Township now has three post offices- Hanson, Myer's Valley, and Pleasant Run. The general stores at Myer's Valley are kept by Jesse Harvey and J. W. Smith; at Pleasant Run, by George W. Duncan. This is a large grain-growing region, and the shipments are mostly made at St. George."

The Shute-Welter House was built between 1865 and 1870 by William Shute and his wife Betsy. William purchased the Pleasant Run property in 1863 from Sidney and Hannah Wilson for \$100. The Shutes do not appear in the 1865 Kansas State Census but are listed in the 1870 U.S. Census.

In 1870 William was 70 years old and Betsy was 59 years old, William was a farmer and Betsy was a housekeeper. The Shutes had emigrated from Illinois to Pottawatomie County in the early 1860s, both had been born in New York.

In 1874 the Shutes deeded their property to their son Joseph Shute, 29 years old, for consideration of \$1000. The value of the consideration indicates that there was a house on the property in 1874, the house was very likely standing at the time of the 1870 U.S. Census.

The Shutes lived in the stone house until sometime after 1880. The property was sold for back taxes in 1882 and served as a residence for the Dudley family during the late 1880s and 1890s. William Welter purchased the property from Ethelda Dudley in 1900 for \$450.

William Welter (1873-1946) lived all of his life in the Pleasant Run community. He married Kate Weber (1876-1928) in 1898, the couple had three children. In 1931 he married Stella May Dixon (1879-1958). Welter farmed the 30 acres that he owned, rented land from area land owners to farm, and cut and sold firewood.

The Shute-Welter House was used as a grainary by William's son Wilson Welter (1902-1970) throughout the 1950s and 1960s. The house sat vacant for sometime after that. In 1987 Ruby and Ronald Zeller began the difficult task of cleaning and repairing the Shute-Welter House for a weekend retreat. Ruby Zeller is William Welter's granddaughter.

The Shute-Welter House is a five room, one story, gable roof, native limestone house with a wooden lean-to. A low basement sits beneath the house. The house sits on a 30 acre tract with an eastern facade orientation. It measures 32 feet from north to south and 20 feet from east to west.

The limestone used in the construction of the house is a combination of field stone and ashlar stone. The stone lintels and sills are tooled. The stones have been repointed. The Zellers have maintained the original five room floorplan with the kitchen lean-to addition. The house retains its tongue and groove walnut panelling, walnut and pine baseboards, some original walnut plank doors, walnut picture railings, and walnut window and door surrounds. The doors and windows are deeply set into the walls. Some original door hardware is intact. It is likely that the Shutes brought the original door hardware with them from Illinois or possibly even New York. The steep and narrow modified box staircase is intact. The ceiling and wall panelling is tongue and groove. The Zellers have added storm windows and doors. They have replaced doors where needed.

A board and batten shed (c. 1928) stands to the northwest of the house. The shed measures 10 feet from north to south and 16 feet from east to west. William Welter constructed the shed to house the family's new car.